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FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW

NO. 260

DATE SEP 29 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. September 29, 1961

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For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	INFO	OEPT	RM/R	REP	AF	ARA	EUR	FE	NEA	CU	INR	E	P	IO	ICA
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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 39

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MILITARY

Negative.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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FORM 6-61 FS-439 GPO 912596

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO: Hallow	ACTION TAKEN 10/6/61	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL [illegible] CS	DATE OF ACTION 10/17/61	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER 25 UN SPEECH. By September 29, there still had been no direct Soviet editorial comment on the President's speech to the UNGA. The TASS news story on the speech, carried by most Moscow newspapers, was punctuated with critical comment such as: the President said nothing about the liquidation of foreign military bases, he made a gross attack on the "socialist" countries, and he said nothing at all about specific colonial problems. Press coverage failed to report the President's challenge of the USSR to a peace race and, in reporting U.S. opposition to the Soviet proposal for reorganizing the office of the Secretary-General, omitted the President's image about the need to have one driver for a troika.

2. OPENING OF UNGA. Soviet press comment on the opening days of the 16th UNGA highlighted the Germany-Berlin crisis. It said that while this question was not on the UN agenda, it was the dominant international problem at present and had cast a shadow over the UN's activities. Disarmament, colonialism, and UN reorganization were presented as the other principal problems and received about the same degree of attention in press comment as they had in GROMYKO's September 25 speech to the UNGA. The press claimed that the U.S. has lost its "automatic majority" in the UN and is therefore due for humiliating defeats on such issues as Chinese representation. In strange contrast to this, the only GA vote at the current session reported by the Soviet press to date--that on the proposal for including a nuclear-test ban in the GCD framework--showed the Communist bloc virtually isolated.

3. BERLIN. KHRUSHCHEV's militant restatement of Soviet objectives in his message to the Berlin WFTU-sponsored international trade-union congress and his message to the Belgrade leaders which emphasized his willingness to negotiate "at any time and any level" were juxtaposed in the Soviet press on September 23. As the week progressed, the WFTU congress continued to receive heavy coverage in the press which featured the speech by Soviet delegate GRISHIN, criticizing West German and other foreign workers for failing to force their Governments to agree to Soviet proposals on Germany and Berlin. There were also intermittent boasts of Soviet military preparedness and strength in the military paper, Red Star.

General CLAY's alleged statements on the need to recognize the existence of two Germanies were reported without comment. These reports, however, were presented in such a way as to bolster the impression fostered in the Soviet press that world opinion is increasingly in favor of the Soviet proposals on Berlin.

Western correspondents reported that GDR leader Walter ULBRICHT had been seen arriving at a Moscow airport on September 25. To date, however, the report remains unconfirmed.

The Western replies to the Soviet note of September 17, regarding the "violation of GDR airspace" by two West German F-84's, were delivered on September 26.

4. LAOS. The Soviet press generally preserved its virtual silence of several months' standing on Laotian events. One paper, however, published an

"Observer" article on Ambassador HARRIMAN's trip to the Far East. It claimed that Harriman tried to dictate the composition of a coalition government to Souvanna PHOUMA, to provide for servitudes on Laotian sovereignty through the ICC, and to insure a dominant position for the PHOUMI faction. It said Souvanna had categorically rejected these demands. The impression the article sought to create was that Harriman was not sincerely trying to achieve a peaceful settlement, but was laying the foundation for a resumption of fighting at the end of the rainy season.

5. CONGO. Recent Soviet commentaries on the Congo, which have been largely restricted to the minor press, indicate that the Soviets approved of the UN operation against Katanga but felt it was badly executed. Soviet commentators have been severely critical of the cease-fire arrangement, characterizing it as a capitulation by the UN administration to TSHOMBE.

6. CHECKMATE. Turkish Ambassador KORUTURK was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 23 to receive a sharply worded oral protest against Operation Checkmate. The Soviets labeled the exercise a NATO "provocation" and "hostile demonstration" against the Soviet Union and other "socialist" countries. In the course of the protest, the Soviets further stated that Turkey, by its participation in the plans of NATO and CENTO, was continuing a policy which had been discredited during the time of the MENDERES Government. The content of the protest was published in the Soviet press on September 25 and 26. In the same newspapers, the Soviets announced that the Warsaw Pact powers would be holding military exercises in October-November. According to the announcement, however, these exercises were merely designed "to sum up the results of the current training year."

7. DISARMAMENT. The full text of the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. Statement of Agreed Principles for Disarmament Negotiations was published in both Izvestiya and Pravda. The Soviets also published the complete text of their statement on the negotiations.

8. VISITS.

a. Finland. The activities and speeches of Soviet President BREZHNEV in Finland received daily coverage in the Soviet press and on TV. Brezhnev's reception is being presented to the Soviet people as an outstanding example of peaceful coexistence.

b. Afghanistan. The visit of Afghan Foreign Minister NAIM concluded on September 20, when he returned to Kabul. Earlier Khrushchev had received Naim on September 18 at lunch. Press coverage gave no hint of the purpose of the visit, other than that economic questions must have been discussed, owing to the presence of KOSYGIN and other prominent Soviet economic officials at the functions held for Naim.

c. Gagarin. The Soviet press reported that the astronaut GAGARIN would visit Genoa, Italy, for Columbus Day and would go to Ceylon at the end of October.

d. Belgium. Former Queen ELIZABETH of Belgium and her daughter, Countess de STARR (ex-Queen Marie-Jose of Italy), were guests in the USSR of Supreme Soviet

Deputy Chairman LOBANOV for several days en route to Communist China.

e. U.S. Communist Party leaders Henry WINSTON and James JACKSON were reported to have arrived in Moscow September 26.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

9. SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION AND THE BERLIN CRISIS. The Moscow public remains calm; there are no signs of panic-buying in the Soviet capital in connection with the Berlin crisis. According to information attained from a leading Western Embassy, propaganda measures have been organized in Moscow to assure the populace that war is unlikely. This campaign may have had a reassuring effect, accounting, in part, for the present calm.

On the other hand, the mere fact that nuclear testing has been resumed continues to worry Soviet citizens. Questions concerning test resumption are frequently raised at public lectures. While many Soviet citizens are aware that testing has been resumed by their Government, they have no idea of the number or force of the test explosions. The Embassy has, to date, received only one report indicating that Soviet citizens in the provinces know that the Soviet Union has exploded atomic devices in Central Asia. Interestingly, however, a recent American traveller in Outer Mongolia reports that he heard repeated criticism there of the Soviet resumption of testing, centering on the danger of fall-out.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR THE XXII CPSU CONGRESS. On September 27, six Union republics convened their Party Congresses on schedule, thus completing the series of fourteen republic Congresses to be held before the CPSU Congress in Moscow, scheduled to start on October 17. There are thus still no signs that postponement of the XXII Congress is intended, despite the rumor circulating in Moscow recently (Nedela No. 36, September 8). Additionally, many of the ASSR's, krais, and oblasts in the RSFSR have completed plenums which have approved unanimously and without amendment the draft Program and draft Statute. At only three of these plenums, thus far, has there been a shift in first secretaries. These are Sakhalin, Vologda, and Gorno-Altai oblasts (Pravda, September 29, 1961). The lack of more such changes seems to be an indication that most pre-Congress personnel adjustments were made during the massive changes that took place during the spring and early summer.

Hotel space in Moscow is already difficult to obtain. For the duration of the Ukrainian Congress, tourists have been told that hotel space in Kiev is unobtainable.

11. NEW CAMPAIGN TO REPATRIATE SOVIET ARMENIANS ABROAD SCHEDULED TO START IN 1962. At the Armenian Congress, First Secretary Ya. N. ZAROBYAN announced plans to inaugurate a new "back-to-the-homeland" campaign for Armenians in 1962. This new campaign, it is stated, will not repeat the mistakes made during the earlier 1946-47 repatriation (Embassy A-235, September 29, 1961).

12. RUSSIAN ANTI-SEMITISM ATTACKED BY SOVIET POET. In a new poem entitled "Babiy Yar", Soviet poet Ye. A. YEVTUSHENKO has composed a moving attack upon anti-Jewish prejudices among Russians (Embassy D-283, September 29, 1961). Presumably because of the subject matter, the young poet (he is still in his twenties) has

been criticized for writing a poem containing a "bourgeois" theme.

13. THREE PERSONNEL CHANGES: Although the volume is not very high, considering the current level of Soviet political activity, numerous personnel changes are now being made in connection with republic Congresses and oblast Party plenums. Three of the more interesting personnel changes this week are as follows:

a. New Uzbek Premier. On September 27, the Soviet press announced the appointment of R. KURBANOV as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbekistan SSR (Pravda, September 28, 1961). This change was announced in connection with the holding of the Uzbek Party Congress. Kurbanov had been first secretary of the Kashka-Andizhan Oblast.

b. RSFSR Bureau Member Yakovlev Returns to Diplomacy. After serving less than a year as a member of the CPSU-CC bureau for RSFSR affairs, M. D. YAKOVLEV has been assigned as Soviet Ambassador to Iraq to replace G. T. ZAYTSEV who, after three years there, is being transferred to other work (Pravda, September 26, 1961). Yakovlev was the first and, so far, only Soviet Ambassador to the Congo (Leopoldville).

c. At a Tselinyy Krai Party plenum, Second Secretary M. S. SAPARGALIYEV has been replaced by I. M. BUROV. Sapargaliyev was Minister of Internal Affairs for a short time before his appointment to the Tselinyy Krai Secretariat (Embassy D-284, September 29, 1961).

MILITARY

Negative.

For the Ambassador:

R. T. Davies
First Secretary of Embassy

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